REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Final Office Action mailed April 9, 2008 in the above-identified application. The foregoing amendments are made in order to place the application in condition for allowance and do not raise new issues or require extensive consideration. Accordingly, entry of the Amendment and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6, 8-15 and 17-22 are currently pending in the application. By this Amendment, independent claims 1, 8, 15, and 19 are amended. The amendments find clear support in the original application at least at Fig. 1 and page 3, line 26 to page 4, line 2. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6, 8-15 and 17-22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Ugon (US 7,036,002). The rejection is respectfully traversed in view of the amended claims.

Ugon discloses a system and method for using multiple working memories to improve microprocessor security. In one embodiment, Ugon teaches that the main program switches to a secondary program by means of an interruption. The secondary program triggers a waiting loop having a random length. The secondary program returns control to the main program at the end of the waiting loop or upon an interruption, and the main program then resumes its normal process (column 6, line 54 to column 7, line 11). This embodiment fails to suggest a branch instruction that branches to a randomly-chosen address of a sub-program.

In another embodiment, Ugon teaches pointing to an address of the main program chosen at random (column 7, lines 44-51). In this embodiment, Ugon does not describe that control is returned to the main program. There is no possibility in this embodiment that the main program can resume its normal process as soon as the secondary program transfers control to it, as there is no secondary program. Thus, this embodiment is not compatible with a return to the main program at the instruction immediately following the instruction having caused branching to the sub-program, as required by amended claim 1.

In summary, Ugon does not disclose or suggest an anti-fraud method comprising, in part, providing in a main program *a branch instruction that branches to a randomly-chosen address of*

a sub-program distinct from the main program. The first-described embodiment of Ugon switches to a secondary program by means of an interruption, and the second-described embodiment of Ugon switches to another part of the main program rather than to a sub-program distinct from the main program.

Furthermore, Ugon does not disclose or suggest a sub-program having an *instruction for returning* to the main program, as required by amended claim 1. In the first-described embodiment control is returned to the main program after a random time or upon an interruption. In the second-described embodiment, no return to the main program is discussed. Accordingly, at least these limitations of amended claim 1 are lacking from Ugon.

In addition, it is submitted that the person of ordinary skill in the art would not combine the first-described and the second-described embodiments of Ugon, since these are distinctly different ways of achieving unpredictable microprocessor operation.

For at least these reasons, amended claim 1 is clearly and patentably distinguished over Ugon, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-6 depend from claim 1 and are patentable over Ugon for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Regarding amended claim 8, Ugon does not disclose or suggest branching or jumping from the main program to a randomly-selected address in a sub-program distinct from the main program, wherein the randomly-selected address is a value within address limits of the sub-program and changes on each execution of the main program. Instead, Ugon discloses embodiments which include switching to a secondary program in response to an interruption, generating a random time for returning to the main program, and switching to another part of the main program rather than to a secondary program. For at least these reasons, amended claim 8 is clearly and patentably distinguished over Ugon, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 9-14 depend from claim 8 and are patentable over Ugon for at least the same reasons as claim 8.

Regarding amended claim 15, Ugon does not disclose or suggest randomizing the total execution time of a main program by branching or jumping from the main program to a

randomly-selected address in a sub-program distinct from the main program, wherein the randomly-selected address is a value within address limits of the sub-program and changes on each execution of the main program, executing the sub-program from the randomly-selected address to an instruction for returning to a main program, and resuming execution of the main program following returning from the sub-program. As noted above, Ugon describes embodiments which include switching to a secondary program in response to an interruption, generating a random time for returning to the main program, and switching to another part of the main program rather than to a secondary program. For at least these reasons, amended claim 15 is clearly and patentably distinguished over Ugon, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 17 and 18 depend from claim 15 and are patentable over Ugon for at least the same reasons as claim 15.

Regarding claim 19, Ugon does not disclose or suggest means for branching or jumping from a main program to a randomly-selected address in a sub-program distinct from the main program, wherein the randomly-selected address is a value within the address limits of the sub-program and changes on each execution of the main program. Instead, Ugon discloses embodiments which include switching to a secondary program in response to an interruption, generating a random time for returning to the main program, and switching to another part of the main program rather than to a secondary program. For at least these reasons, amended claim 19 is clearly and patentably distinguished over Ugon, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 20-22 depend from claim 19 and are patentable over Ugon for at least the same reasons as claim 19.

Based upon the above discussion, entry of the Amendment and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Dated: July 8, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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